

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the forgoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of August 11, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S Patent No. 5,997,311 to Crouse et al. ("Crouse") and rejects claims 2, 7 and 9-21 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouse in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,014 to Jacobson et al. ("Jacobson").

By this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-10 and 12-22 are pending. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended, claims 3 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 22 is added.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Crouse. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 3 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, a panel comprising a first side, including at least one first connector configured to connect to electrical equipment and receive a plurality of signals from the electrical equipment, wherein the at least one first connector includes an integrated connector having a number of contact points therein.

On page 2 of the Office Action of August 11, 2003, the Examiner states that Fig. 4, elements 38 and 40 of Crouse disclose an integrated connector having a number of contact points therein. Crouse discloses a panel for holding interconnect and cross-connect equipment for telecommunications apparatus (column 1, lines 6-8). Fig. 4 shows a connector module 28 having connectors 38 and 40 on a front surface of connector module 28. The Examiner appears to be of the belief that connector module 28 is a connector including an integrated connector, 38 and 40, having a number of contact points therein. Applicant submits that connector module 28 is a

module having connectors. A module is not equivalent to a connector. Further, nothing in Crouse discloses that either connector 38 or connector 40 are integrated with a number of contact points therein.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Crouse because Crouse does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim are respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6 and 8 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and therefore, are not anticipated by Crouse for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-6 and 8 be withdrawn.

On page 4 of the Office Action of August 11, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 7 and 9-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouse in view of Jacobson. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 11 was canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Claims 2 and 7 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and recite, inter alia, a panel comprising a first side, including at least one first connector configured to connect to electrical equipment and receive a plurality of signals from the electrical equipment, wherein the at least one first connector includes an integrated connector having a number of contact points therein, which Applicant submits is not disclosed by Crouse for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1.

Jacobson discloses a system and a method for accessing a number of communication lines by one or more testing devices (see Abstract). Applicant submits that Jacobson does not satisfy the deficiencies of Crouse and does not disclose or suggest the previously discussed features of claim 1.

Claim 9 recites a timing output panel comprising at least one timing connector connected to a plurality of network connectors and configured to connect to synchronization electronics, wherein the at least one timing connector includes a unitary connector having multiple pins corresponding to a number of signals from the synchronization electronics.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Crouse fails to teach a timing connector including a unitary connector having multiple pins corresponding to a number of signals from the synchronization electronics. The Examiner alleges that Jacobson discloses this feature at column 10, line 66 – column 11, line 9, and Figs 1 and 2. Column 10, line 66 – column 11, line 9 of Jacobson states,

Microcontroller 137 shown in FIG. 9 is preferably a CMOS fully-static 8-bit device with 192 bytes of RAM and 22 I/O ports (such as Microchip Technology P/N PIC 16C63) having a synchronous serial port configured as a 3-wire Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) to communicate with the system CPU (e.g., MC68302) via a system Serial Bus (SB). The Microcontroller 137 forms a local 8-bit multiplexed address/data bus 138 which is used for communication with the framers 135. The clock for the Microcontroller 137 may be provided by an external 3.6864 MHZ quartz crystal oscillator.

Figs. 1 and 2 shows a test access unit having 15 line access cards, a single test equipment card, a control card, and a pair of power supplies. Fig. 2 shows the rear of the test access unit including a bank of line access ports for connecting communication lines to the test access unit (Jacobson, column 3, lines 55-67).

Applicant submits that the cited section of Jacobson and Figs 1 and 2 have nothing to do with the feature of claim 9. In fact, Applicant submits that Jacobson is completely devoid of teaching a timing connector including a unitary connector having multiple pins corresponding to a number of signals from the synchronization electronics, as recited in claim 9. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 12-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9 and are patentable over Crouse and Jacobson for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 17 recites, inter alia, a panel comprising means for connecting to synchronization electronics including at least one connector including an integrated connector having a number of contact points therein. Claim 1, as discussed above, recites a similar feature. For reasons similar to those discussed above regarding claim 1, Applicant submits Crouse does not disclose the features of claim 17. Jacobson, as discussed above, does not remedy the deficiencies of Crouse with respect to claim 17. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 17 are respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17 and are patentable over Crouse and Jacobson for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 17.

The Office Action does not discuss the reasons for the rejection of claim 21. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner did not make a proper *prima facie* rejection of claim 21. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner either withdraw the rejection to claim 21 or particularly point out where the features of claim 21 are allegedly disclosed by Crouse and Jacobson.

Applicant submits that claim 21 is patentable over Crouse in view of Jacobson. Claim 21 recites a system comprising a timing signal generator configured to generate synchronization signals for a plurality of network elements. Neither Crouse nor Jacobson, either separately or in combination, discloses, or suggests such a timing signal generator. Accordingly, allowance of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

At least for the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that claims 2, 7, 9-10 and 12-21 are patentable over Crouse in view of Jacobson and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

New claim 22 recites a timing output panel having a first side and a second side. The second side includes a primary and a secondary timing signal generator connector, wherein each

of the timing signal generator connectors include a 50-pin amphenol-type connector configured to be connected to outputs of a timing signal generator. Applicant submits that neither Crouse nor Jacobson disclose a timing output panel having such such a connector.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

By: Richard C. Irving
Richard C. Irving
Reg. No. 38,499

11240 Waples Mill Road
Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(571) 432-0800

Date: Nov. 10, 2003